given its clearance to release the animals to Andhra Pradesh Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in giving permission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since, the Australian authorities failed to satisfy the Quarantine and Health requirements specified by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, the animals could not be released from the Quarantine Station, Chennai.

Starvation in Orissa

†1779. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that whole of the Orissa is passing through a phase of frightening starvation and the benefit of none of the schemes, run by Government, has reached the people; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As on 24th July, 2002, out of 28 districts of the State, 1 had scanty and 20 had deficient rainfall in Orissa. While the situation gives cause for serious concern and careful contingent planning, there is no report suggesting a phase of acute distress. Similarly, while there may be room for improvement in implementation of development schemes in the State, it will neither be correct nor fair to consider that these have failed to result in benefits to the State.

Increasing the poultry production

1780. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to double poultry production in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are extending financial assistance to young entrepreneurs, in helping setting up poultry units;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether financial assistance is being given to States, particularly Andhra Pradesh, in development of poultry industry, including poultry processing; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries are implementing schemes under which financial assistance are provided to Non-Governmental Organizations/Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings/ joint sectors and private sectors for setting up of poultry processing units including egg processing, expansion in the manufacture of poultry products and modernization, development/improvement of marketing, quality control, storage and transport of meat and meat products.

(e) and (f) Although the plan schemes under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries are not state specific, financial assistance have been provided for setting up of two poultry and meat processing units by State Public Sector Undertakings of Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority is also extending financial assistance for setting up of infrastructural facilities for cold storage, washing, grading and packing of eggs as a part of export promotion activity in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Making agriculture economically viable

1781. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an overall decline in investment for development of agricultural infrastructure more particularly in the irrigation system, throughout the country;